REMARKS

In the office action dated November 25, 1998, claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 3-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward in view of Glassen et al. (Glassen). Claims 3 and 7 are amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3 and 7 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis. Therefore the rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ward in view of Glassen et al. (Glassen). Ward discloses an enqueue and dequeue process for data transfers across inbound pipes and outbound pipes. Shared memory is provided which is accessible by both entities (i.e., the transferring and receiving devices). Surrogate control information is stored in the shared memory. The surrogate control information is written to shared memory by the device initiating a transaction and is read from the shared memory by the device replying to the transaction initiated. Thus the device, after reading the surrogate information, performs operations based on, in part, the surrogate information (see e.g., abstract, col 2, lines 1-35).

Ward neither teaches nor discloses the claimed present invention. For example, with respect to claim 1, Ward neither teaches nor discloses a first device generating a request comprising a plurality of fields including a device configurable field comprising device configurable data, the first device issuing the request to a second device that generates a reply comprising a plurality fields, the second device copying the data received in the device configurable field into a designated field of the reply.

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Glassen does not remove the shortcomings of Ward. Glassen discloses a mechanism that enables the determination of those components of an I/O configuration that are shared by other components of the configuration (see abstract). Glassen does not teach or disclose the use of device configurable data as set forth in the claims. Glassen teaches a process for determined shared elements of a system.

Thus, it follows that the combination of Ward and Glassen neither teach nor disclose the present invention as neither reference, alone or in combination, teach or disclose, for example, as set forth in claim 1, a first device generating a request comprising a plurality of fields including a device configurable field comprising device configurable data, the first device issuing the request to a second device that generates a reply comprising a plurality fields, the second device copying the data received in the device configurable field into a designated field of the reply.

For the reasons noted above, claims 2-10 are similarly distinguishable over the Ward and Glassen references, alone or in combination.

In summary, claims 1-10 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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Cheri Clinkenbeard February 17, 1999
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